Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 18, 2002 TO FEBRUARY 22, 2002

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Monthly Survey of Manufacturing ($ millions)	December			Canadian manufacturing shipments decreased 1.8% in December to $40.4 billion. This is down 12.3% from the peak of $46.0 billion in October 2000, while manufacturer's inventories have only decreased 2.9% over the same period. The inventory to shipments ratio of 1.56 is close to its nine-year high level. Alberta manufacturing shipments were down 4.3% in December and down 15.1% on a year-over-year basis. The year-over-year decrease for Alberta was largely due to decreases in the petroleum and coal products (-30.5%) and chemical products (-21.4%) sectors.
Alberta	3,210	-4.3%	-15.1%	
Canada	40,364	-1.8%	-10.9%	
Retail sales	December			Canadian retail sales rose 1.6% in December. This increase was the third consecutive monthly gain, led by the furniture (3.9%) and automotive (2.0%) sectors. Alberta retail sales rose 0.7% in December, and are up 8.9% from December 2000.
Alberta	2,986	0.7%	8.9%	
Canada	24,974	1.6%	5.0%	
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1992=100)	January			The Composite Leading Index rose 0.9% in January, the fourth consecutive gain and the largest since April 2000. Low mortgage rates and unseasonably warm weather helped boost the housing index by 5.0%. Seven of the ten components posted increases in January. The index is up 4.8% over January 2001.
	168.9	0.9%	4.8%	